Remarks

This is responsive to the Office Action dated October 30, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected claims 6-7 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner also rejected claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In this response, a terminal disclaimer has been submitted to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. In submitting this terminal disclaimer, the Applicant is not conceding that the claims of the present application are obvious in view of those of the patents identified in the terminal disclaimer. Applicant is relying on the principle that the filing of a terminal disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection. See Quad Environmental Tech. v. Union Sanitary Dist., 946 F.2d 870, 874 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicant expressly reserves the right to later take the position, if appropriate, that one or more of the claims resulting from this application are patentably distinct from the claims of the patents identified in the disclaimer, and/or to later dispute any other contentions in the Office action.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 of claims 6 and 7 as being unpatentable over the Angles reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,811) is again respectfully traversed. It is believed that the combination of features recited in claims 6 and 7 are, in fact, allowable over Angles. Angles is insufficient to teach the particular combination of features required by claim 6 and by claim 7. Claim 6 requires:

upon detecting that the user has selected the activated competitive information display element, displaying a competitive information document, wherein the competitive information document is retrieved by the client computer over the network from a competitive information server that is not related to the first server or the second server . . .

These limitations of claim 6, when taken in combination with the other limitations of the claim, are not taught by the cited portions of the Angles reference relied upon by the Examiner. New claim 7 is an apparatus claim that is similar to method claim 6. Applicant also notes that any previous arguments made by Applicant in this or parent cases involving different claims may not apply to claims 6 and 7 if the claim language at issue in those prior claims is not present in claims 6 and 7.

This application should now be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a conversation with the Applicant will expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Dated: January 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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